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I.

NOSOLOGICAL PLACE OF NEURALGIA.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—Since the publication of my papers on Neuralgia, a friend has informed me that Dr. Good, in the last edition of the Study of Medicine, has actually changed the arrangement of Neuralgia from the order Cinetica to Æsthetica, as I proposed in the last of those papers. He also has spoken of a Neuralgia of the Mamma in the same article, and alluded to the description of Neuralgia of the Uterus, in another author.

Although I have not set up a claim for novelty, I should certainly have alluded to these remarks of Dr. Good, had I known of them; and perhaps it will be thought that I ought to have consulted his excellent work on the practice of medicine, for the purpose of ascertaining whether any change had been made from the Nosology. It really occurred to me to do this; but I found that if I took the time to consult such works as were calculated to throw light on this subject, it would be impossible for me to publish these cases at present. For this reason, I resolved to allow them to be taken for better or for worse. The remarks of Dr. Good are gratifying to me, not only because I had proposed the arrangement which he had ultimately

adopted, but also because they seem to confirm the existence of two species of the affection noticed in these papers,—that of the Mamma and of the Uterus.

Acupuncture is mentioned by Dr. G. as an application worthy to be tried before resorting to operation, both in recent and confirmed cases. This practice I have fairly employed, without any good effect. The Prussic acid is also spoken of by the same distinguished author as meriting a trial. This I have not used; and powerful as are its effects on the animal economy, I must freely confess, though at some risk, that I have not seen cause to put confidence in its curative virtues. Your obedient servant,

J. C. WARREN.

II.

WOUND OF THE HEART.

Wound of the Heart, in which the Patient survived the Accident ten days.

VICTOR JANSON, sixteen years of age, on the 8th of September wounded himself accidentally in pulling a knife from one of his companions; but, as he felt no pain, he supposed he had only cut his waistcoat. He laid the knife upon the table, walked out into the court, and remained there ten minutes, without even thinking of the accident. At the end of this time, he

observed his clothes stained with blood ; he vomited, and fell to the ground.

He was conveyed to LA CHARITÉ. The blood which flowed at this time was florid. When brought to the hospital, his face was pale, his lips colorless, eyelids drooping, respiration short and frequent ; pulse small, frequent, and compressible ; the shirt and clothes of the patient bathed in blood. Between the fourth and fifth ribs of the left side, near two fingers' breadth from the sternum, was a transverse aperture, from six to seven lines in length. It was remarked that the wound of the integuments did not correspond exactly with that of the muscles or pleura ; and this want of parallelism prevented the blood from having a free exit. In order to determine the exact direction in which the instrument had penetrated, and the hemorrhage continuing, the extremity of a covered director was introduced into the wound ; and seeing that it tended to run from within outwards, and from above downwards, it was withdrawn, without introducing it within the chest. The lips of the wound were gently approximated by means of adhesive straps, and a compress and bandage, applied moderately tight. The left and back part of the chest emitted a dull sound on percussion ; the respiratory murmur was feeble at the upper part, and entirely wanting beneath. On the right the sound was clear, and the respiratory murmur very perceptible. The patient being laid on his back, the sound was sufficiently clear above and in front, but dull beneath and at the side, where the respiratory murmur was lost. These different signs clearly pointed out considerable extravasation of blood into the

chest. The patient continued all this time with his eyes shut, and insensible. He was bled, and sinapisms were applied to the calves of the legs, the feet rolled in warm cloths, and the hands retained some minutes in warm water.

Next morning it was found that he had slept two hours during the night. Some reaction had manifested itself. He was directed by M. Boyer to be bled three times, viz., immediately, at mid-day, and at night. The first produced a momentary relief ; the second and third, also, somewhat diminished the oppression.

The symptoms still remaining, on the third day he was again bled, and the venesection once more repeated at night.

On the 11th, (the fourth day,) the patient was in great distress, and the dressings were removed. M. Boyer then directed him to cough ; dark blood flowed copiously from the wound. The left side of the thorax was observed to be more prominent than the other, and the intercostal spaces were obliterated : a portion of air entered the chest in lieu of the blood evacuated. The dressings were again applied. In the evening, the oppression continuing, twenty leeches were applied to the anus.

On the 12th and 13th, he continued with gradually increasing oppression of respiration, anxiety, and general distress.

On the 14th, M. Boyer introduced a probe through the wound into the chest ; immediately the blood sprung to the height of several feet. He then removed the instrument, and tried to introduce his little finger. This brought on a kind of spasmodic action of the respiratory muscles, and the blood escaped as before. Air entered to

occupy the place of blood; the pulse became extremely feeble, and little or no relief was given to the bleeding. About three o'clock in the morning, he died.

Examination.—An incision was made at the inferior and back part of the thorax, through which about a pound and a half of blood was extracted. The chest was then opened with great precaution. An aperture was found in the pericardium, which was thickened and inflamed throughout its whole extent: it adhered to the heart only at the edges of the wound. It contained pus, particularly at the lower part, where the quantity was considerable: it was thick and greenish. An opening, rather less than that in the pericardium, existed in the left ventricle: this ventricle was removed by two incisions parallel to the septum. A stilette, introduced from without inwards, penetrated into its interior, and pushed out a little clot of blood. The inner aperture was extremely small. A false membrane, which lined the surface of the pericardium and the heart, extended itself across the wound; the heart appeared to be becoming inflamed, being thickened and very hard. There was no blood in the pericardium; no artery that could be seen was wounded.

Journ. Hebdom.

III.

NEEDLE IN THE LARYNX.

Case in which a Needle was introduced into the Larynx.

A MAN had been using a needle for the purpose of scratching his nostril: having let it go, it passed backwards into the fauces, and fell into the windpipe. The needle had a thread attached to it, which was entirely drawn in, and disap-

peared. Violent fits of coughing, and attempts at expectoration, immediately came on: by these, the end of the thread was ejected, and the patient laid hold of this and pulled it. These attempts gave him great pain, but were unavailing. He continued for three days in a state of great anxiety and suffering, during which he made numerous ineffectual attempts to pull out the needle. At length he came to the BEAUJON, at Paris.

The thread was still hanging out of the mouth, and some efforts were again made by the house surgeon to extract the needle by pulling it gently, but in vain. M. Blandin, when he arrived, found that the thread had disappeared during the act of deglutition, nor could he recover it by introducing the fingers into the pharynx, or by any other means. Uncertain whether the needle had really got into the larynx or the gullet, he contented himself with applying thirty leeches to the throat, followed by a poultice, &c. Next day, the patient was much in the same state, and was bled to sixteen ounces, and had twenty leeches to the neck, &c.

For two days more, there was little to remark; when, during the visit, the patient expelled the end of the thread in a fit of coughing. M. Blandin, having satisfied himself that the needle could not be pulled out, fixed the thread upon the cheek with a little adhesive strap, and resolved to operate next day.

On the following morning, the respiration was more difficult, and the voice more hoarse. M. Blandin, having again tried various means of extracting the needle, proceeded to operate. The patient was placed horizontally on a bed facing the light, and M. Blandin,

standing on the right side of the patient, fixed the larynx with the left hand, and then endeavored to find the crico-thyroid space, but the swelling rendered this impossible; he therefore made an incision through the skin on the median line, about a third of the length of the throat, and afterwards divided the subjacent parts very cautiously. It was not till he had penetrated to the depth of an inch that he laid bare the crico-thyroid membrane. Some bleeding took place, but the hemorrhage soon ceased. The nail of the forefinger of the left hand was placed transversely on the membrane, which was then punctured, and cut in the same direction. A grooved and curved director was introduced by the wound, and carried upwards, and the thyroid cartilage divided upon it, throughout its whole length. Respiration was now freely performed through this large opening, but the voice was lost. A polypus forceps was introduced at two different times, and speedily withdrawn, on account of the irritation it excited, but without the needle. Considering it possible that the needle might be expelled in a fit of coughing, the patient was put to bed, the wound being lightly covered with a piece of linen pierced with holes, and spread with cerate.

On the following day, a needle, nineteen lines in length, and as it were bronzed, was found attached to the compress laid over the wound.

The wound healed very slowly. The operation was performed on the 22d of June, and a fistulous opening, with great weakness and hoarseness of voice, remained in September. On the 30th of that

month, it is stated that, by means of caustic applied to the edges of the aperture, it had at length closed, and the voice regained some of its former strength.—*Ib.*

IV.

HIP PRESENTATIONS.

Six successive Hip Presentations in the same Individual.

MADAME Q., large and well made, of good constitution. Her first accouchement was long and difficult: the hips presented, and various manipulations were adopted by her attendant, which caused great pain; but at length the delivery took place spontaneously. She was put to bed a second time, and the labor was much easier, being speedily terminated, although the presentation was the same as before. On the third occasion, as soon as the pains came on, an accoucheur was sent for, who remained with her above ten hours, when the labor gradually ceased, and the delivery did not take place till five weeks after.

The physician who relates the case was sent for to the lady during her fourth pregnancy. He found the os uteri thick and hard, with a little tumor at the left side, about the size of a nut, and which felt like a hæmorrhoid. The pains continued, but without effect, and after some hours entirely ceased. In a month afterwards, she was delivered without difficulty, the hips still presenting. A fifth accouchement was attended with similar circumstances, false labor supervening about the eighth month, and delivery three weeks after.

On the 11th of December last, Madame Q. was seized with la-

bor-pains for the sixth time, but which again subsided till the 8th of January, the hips presenting as in every one of the preceding instances.

These presentations are neither rare nor difficult at the Maternité, in Paris; 360 were met with in 20,000 cases, and of these, only 30 required the interference of art. But the case above detailed is so far remarkable, because, though the woman was well formed, and the pregnancy presented nothing extraordinary, yet the position of the fœtus was always the one above mentioned.

La Clinique.

V.

PECULIARITIES OF FŒTAL LIFE.

Functions of the Intestinal Canal and Liver in the Human Fœtus.

A VERY interesting paper on the above subject was lately read at the Royal Society by Dr. Lee. From the circumstances of the early development of the liver and intestines of the fœtus—of the copious supply of blood which they receive, and of the great space which they occupy in the abdomen—the author was led to the conclusion that they performed some important functions in the fœtal economy. Although no nutritive matter can be furnished by the mouth, yet the contents of different portions of the alimentary canal were found, both in appearance and chemical composition, to have a striking analogy to those of the same parts of the canal in the adult, where the processes of assimilation and absorption are performed. A semi-fluid matter, possessing all the charac-

ters of albumen, is found closely adhering to the inner walls of the small intestine, and is more especially abundant around the papillary projection, through which the common duct of the liver opens into the duodenum, and diminishes in quantity as we trace it towards the termination of the ileum. The great intestines are generally distended with a dark green homogeneous fluid, containing no albumen, and apparently excrementitious. No albumen can be detected in the contents of the stomach; hence the author infers that an absorption of some nutritious substance (which he brings forward several arguments to show must be derived from the liver) takes place from the intestinal canal in the latter months of gestation. He states that in two instances he detected the presence of a substance similar to that which he had found in the duodenum, in the hepatic duct itself. Hence he is led to the conclusion that the function of the liver in the fœtus is not confined to the separation of excrementitious matter from the blood, but that it supplies materials subservient to nutrition. That the substances existing in the intestines of the fœtus are not derived from the mouth, is proved by these being equally found in encephalous children, or where the œsophagus is impervious, as where no such malconformation had existed. A note is subjoined to this paper by Dr. Prout, giving an account of the mode by which he ascertained the chemical character of the substance referred to in his examination. The paper is accompanied by drawings of the intestinal tube in the fœtus.

Philosophical Magazine.

VI.

Description of the Rudiments of a Fœtus, extracted from the Testicle of a Child seven Months old.

By Dr. WENDT, of Breslau.

IN the neighborhood of Glogan, in Silesia, the wife of a laborer was, in December, 1827, delivered of a healthy male child, which, during six months, enjoyed good health; but having after this period been affected with dysuria, was found to have a hard swelling of the left testicle, and congenital phimosis. The latter having been removed by the operation, the testicle rapidly increased in size, so that the scrotum at last hung down to the knees; the tumor had an uneven surface, was very hard, and tender on pressure, and as it continued to grow, was on the 9th of July removed. The ligature came away on the 12th, and the wound was completely healed by the beginning of August.

The extirpated testicle was four inches and a quarter in length, and two and a quarter in diameter; it weighed seven ounces, and its parenchyma was infiltrated with a greasy, ichorous matter, of a yellow color. No trace of the epididymis could be found. The tunica vaginalis being opened, a solid oblong body was exposed, and, on closer inspection, found to be a thigh bone, without its periosteum, one inch and a half in length; in the circumjacent tissue, the rudiments of several other bones were found, which, on a more accurate examination, proved to be the pelvis of a fœtus at the fourth month; the os coccygis was very much curved; the sacrum terminated in a ligamentous mass, which ap-

peared to represent the rudiments of the lumbar vertebræ. The head of the right thigh bone was much compressed, without any trace of the neck, although two prominences, resembling the trochanters, were visible; its lower end terminated in two tuberosities, representing the internal and external condyles. The left os pubis and the ischium were totally wanting; the ileum, which was well formed, had attached to its semicircular line the left thigh bone, which was only three-fourths of an inch in length, and its lower extremity bent backwards; the tibia and fibula were almost entirely cartilaginous, and were separated by a very thick inter-osseous ligament; the foot was represented by a confused cartilaginous mass, without any distinct traces of toes. No other rudiments of any fœtal organs could be found in the testicle, the substance of which was not in a morbid state, except from mechanical pressure. The child from which it had been removed was, five years after the operation, in the enjoyment of excellent health.—*Bulletin des Sc. Méd.*

VII.

OPTICAL PECULIARITY.

Double Pupil in one Eye.

A REMARKABLE case of double pupil was observed by Professor Pacini, of Lucca, in a young man who, in his childhood, had, from an unknown external cause, been affected with chronic inflammation of the left eye, which had left it in the following state:—The external parts of the eye are healthy, the cornea is perfectly transparent, except at its external part, where there is a small pte-

rygium; the pupil is elliptic, the fourth part of a line in height, and one line in breadth, and immoveable even in the strongest light. The upper eyelid being raised, another pupil, three lines and a half in its largest, and one line in its smallest, diameter, is discovered at the upper portion of the iris; it is somewhat directed towards the internal angle of the eye, and likewise insensible to light. The parts behind it are perfectly transparent. The young man is long-sighted, and squints, the left eye being constantly turned towards the nose; whenever he looks at an object with both eyes, he sees it simple and distinct; if the healthy eye be closed, and the accessory pupil covered, the object appears confused, but if seen with the superior pupil only, it appears simple and distinct. Whenever he looks with the morbid eye at an object placed before him, he sees its right half only, and that double; in order to see it simple, he is forced to direct the eye towards the external angle, and even then the right half is seen more distinctly and somewhat higher than the other. Objects appear of the same size, whether seen with the morbid or healthy eye; and continued exertion of the former produces a disagreeable sensation in the interior of the globe, so that he is obliged repeatedly to close the eyelids.

Journ. des Progr.

VIII.

Effect of Poisons on Plants.

M. MACAIRE PRIEREP has lately made some interesting experiments on the absorption of poisonous substances by plants, and the changes which they subsequently

undergo. The flowers of violet and columbine, (*Viola odorata* and *Aquilegia vulgaris*), the stalks of which were plunged into a solution of the acetate of lead, became of a green color, a considerable time before their complete death, which did not take place for two or three days. In a solution of the oxymuriate of mercury, these plants died within nearly the same time; but absorption appeared to be much less active, and did not exceed a certain degree; those flowers only, which were very near the surface of the liquid, being changed in color. The solutions of mineral acids were absorbed so rapidly, that the flowers of violet became red even before they had lost their odor, and the course of absorption was distinctly visible by the progressive discoloration of the stalk. In all these experiments, some flowers of the same species were placed in pure water, to serve for comparison. The flowers of *Berberis vulgaris*, if placed in common water, retain for several days the habit of contracting their stamina at night, and the same periodical movement, as well as the power of contracting after any mechanical impulse, is also retained by the leaves of the *Mimosa*, under the same circumstances. If, instead of water, a solution of prussic acid, or of opium, be used, the irritability is by the first destroyed within four hours, and by the second in about double that time, the flexibility of the leaves and flowers remaining unchanged. In a solution of arsenical acid of the arseniate of soda, or oxymuriate of mercury, irritability and flexibility were destroyed within three hours. If

stramonium, *hyoscyamus*, or *mordica elaterium*, were submitted to the action of their own poisonous substances, which was done by placing the detached leaves of these plants in a solution of the extracts, or expressed juices, in distilled water, (five grains to an ounce,) they very soon shrunk, and died within an hour or two, while other leaves, placed in a solution of gum, underwent no alteration whatever. If the roots of the plants in question were moistened with a solution of their extracts, they gradually lost their vigor, and died within a short time. It seems, then, that the juices of the plants in question, which are deleterious to other vegetables, are poisons to the

very plants from which they are extracted. This presents a striking analogy between the animal and vegetable kingdom; for it is well known that venomous serpents are poisoned by their own bite.

According to M. Macaire, the results of the latter experiments are to be explained either, 1st, by the chemical alteration which the vegetable juices undergo when exposed to the atmospheric air, and which consists in the absorption of carbonic acid, and the emission of oxygen; or, 2dly, by supposing that the deleterious principle is, in the plant, contained in peculiar canals, and separated from the sap by a sort of secretion.

Ann. de Chim. et de Phys.

SKETCHES OF PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

POISONOUS VEGETABLES.

Treatment of the Cutaneous Affection produced by these Plants.

DR. DAKIN, of Columbus, N. J., has published, in the May number of the *American Journal*, some practical remarks on the eruption caused by poisonous vegetables. He has found this affection most speedily cured by abrading the cuticle, so as to open the pimples as early as possible after their appearance, and then touching them with the following ointment:—

R. Cupri Sulph. ʒi.
Precip. Mer. Rub. ʒi.
Tereb. Ven. ʒiij.
Axung. ʒi. M.

One or two applications, with twelve hours intervening, will arrest the inflammation, and the disease abates and disappears in three or four days. In several cases, he has found vene-

section and the neutral salts beneficial. Quere,—would not the cauterization of the pimples with Nitr. Arg. be an equally effectual practice? For several species of Herpes we have adopted this method with uniform success.

ON THE USE OF ERGOT OF RYE IN PARTURITION.

THE sixth paper in the *Glasgow Journal* is an Essay, which amounts, in fact, to a review of a work, lately published in London, "on difficult cases of Parturition, and the use of Ergot of Rye, by W. Mitchell." The ergot is commended by this author, in the most unqualified manner, in almost all the circumstances in which it is desirable to accelerate parturition. Mr. M. by no means confines the use of ergot to those cases in

which the parts are relaxed and nothing is required but an increase of muscular action in the uterus to expel its contents. In this case, Mr. M. conceives that a common stimulus will effect the object, without the necessity of having recourse to so potent an agent. But it is in the implastic labors, with a narrow pelvis and a rigid os uteri, that Mr. M. thinks ergot likely to prove efficacious. He lays it down as an axiom, that it matters little whether delivery is effected by contraction of the uterus, or simply by dilatation of its mouth; and he believes that the great value of ergot lies not in resuscitating the uterus when its inertia is the only obstacle, but in its application to a narrow pelvis, or in its power of dilating the os uteri.

The practice of Mr. M. appears to have conformed to his principles; and his results are more favorable than, on such principles, could with any reason have been expected. The ergot was given by him in 107 cases. In all of these the mothers recovered, and there were only two in which the death of the child could fairly be ascribed to its use. One appearance, however, was remarked in many of these cases, which might have inspired some degree of distrust as to the safety of the practice. He himself remarks, that "when the umbilical cord was divided, or the placenta expelled, the blood was almost black, and without any apparent circulation." Now, as this is known not to be a necessary effect of the use of ergot, the inference is irresistible that it arose in these cases from undue compression, sufficient

to place the life of the child in extreme danger.

In the case of narrow or deformed pelvis, ergot is recommended by Mr. Mitchell as increasing the power of the uterus, and aiding it in moulding the head into such a shape as to render it capable of passing. In one instance, adduced in illustration of this principle, the child was stillborn, its head elongated to eight and a quarter inches in length, and three inches in circumference. This was a first labor in an individual forty-five years of age.

From the facts which are known with regard to this singular substance, it seems probable that it produces little effect, except when uterine action is already present. Thus, of the attempts which have been made to procure abortion by its means, scarce one is on record in which it has been successful, whereas it is known, in numerous instances, to have failed. Even when given after partial delivery, in order to facilitate the expulsion of the placenta, it has in many instances proved wholly inert, and in others has been followed by hour-glass contraction of the uterus. An indication which it seems far better capable of fulfilling, is that of arresting hemorrhage, both before and after delivery. In those cases in which the labor has been expedited by its use, hemorrhage has rarely followed the expulsion; and it has been employed expressly as a preventive with equal success. Where uterine hemorrhage is actually present, more speedy remedies must be resorted to; but in those cases in which, from past experience, this occurrence is

to be feared, the ergot may be administered with great advantage. It has also been given, in small doses, as a substitute for stimulants after exhausting labors. Immoderate lochial discharge and menorrhagia have both been checked by its use. In the latter disease it may be combined with the acetate of lead; but there are decided proofs of its efficacy without this combination.

Upon the principle already stated in regard to its action on the uterus when quiescent, but little advantage could be expected from its employment in amenorrhœa; nor has its success in this disease been such as to encourage farther trials. If it has any effect on the unimpregnated organ, its nature and extent are yet to be investigated.

AMPUTATION OF THE JAW.

A CASE of amputation of the lower jaw is detailed in the same journal, by A. W. Anderson, M.D. The patient in this case was a female, of feeble constitution, 87 years of age. The disease is thus described:—"A firm, spongy tumor occupied the left side of the inferior maxillary bone, from the symphysis backward to the angle. It pervaded the whole thickness of the bone, projecting below it towards the neck, whilst above, it pressed inwards on the tongue and outwards on the face." After much hesitation, on account of the patient's state of health and other circumstances, it was determined to perform an operation. The portion of bone was included between the second molar tooth on the right side, and a point about an inch above the angle

on the left. With this it was intended to complete the operation; but, on examination, the right side of the jaw was found so much diseased, that it was deemed necessary to disarticulate and remove it entirely; so that the only part of the jaw which was left, was that portion of the ascending plate, with its processes, measuring an inch and a half, which remained above the application of the saw on the left side. The hemorrhage was not excessively great, the wound for the most part closed favorably, and the patient did well for the first twelve days. On the thirteenth, she was found to have complained during the night of pain at the top of the sternum, which, after a short intermission, had recurred. She sunk gradually through this day, and expired early in the evening. On dissection, about eight ounces of seropurulent effusion were found in the upper part of the right side of the thorax, and on the same side, inferiorly, the surface of the lung adhered firmly to the pleura costalis and diaphragm. The substance of the lung appeared sound on both sides

FATAL ACCIDENT.

Case of extensive Suppuration and Death, succeeding the Prick of a Pin.

THIS case, with remarks by David Cunningham, is given in the same journal.—A woman, while washing clothes, received a prick from a pin in the point of the forefinger. This was followed by sphacelus and sloughing of the affected phalanx; pain and swelling throughout the arm to the axilla; suppuration over the scapula,

and a fatal termination on the thirty-eighth day. On the third day, when the case was first seen, an incision was made in the tense and inflamed integument, which, however, was not followed by any beneficial effect. Mr. Cunninghame questions the propriety of incisions where extensive inflammation has resulted from slight injuries, proving excessive irritability of the system. If the scratch of a pin be capable, in such a constitution, of producing so tremendous a chain of consequences, how can we suppose that the cut of a scalpel will be attended with benefit, or is even to be inflicted with safety? To resort to a remedy so analogous to the disease itself, must increase the hazard in place of diminishing it. This species of treatment, therefore, should be limited to local inflammation, resulting from severe local injury, threatening the destruction of the part itself; and not resorted to for the cure of sympathetic inflammation. Mr. C.'s reasoning on this point is certainly deserving of attention; and wherever severe irritation has followed a clean incision, or a mere puncture of the integuments, the practice in question is very blameable; but the same symptoms arising from a lacerated wound, or even from a puncture, which had reached deep-seated parts, would by no means forbid our resorting to it; and in these cases we apprehend the employment of incisions will often be found both safe and necessary.

IS THE BLOOD A LIVING FLUID?

SOME remarks, chiefly of a speculative kind, on this subject, by Dr. John

Davy, constitute an article in a late number of the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal. The question which forms the subject of Dr. Davy's essay does not appear to us to be one of very great importance. It is, in fact, a question only of words. It is acknowledged on all hands that the blood possesses certain properties when within the vessels, which it loses on being drawn from them; and these properties constitute its vitality. Much of the obscurity which attaches to the subject has probably arisen from an unfortunate, though ingenious, expression of Hunter, viz., that the coagulation of the blood is proof of its vitality. Now the truth of this is undeniable; and it is equally true that any phenomenon which indicates transition from life to death, is a proof that life has existed; yet the remark is a perplexing one, and has given rise to an idea, that the proofs of the vitality of the blood are to be sought, rather in the phenomena which it exhibits out of the body, than in those it presents while circulating within it; than which, we maintain nothing can be more erroneous. The last expiring breath of an animal is as complete proof of its animal life as any previous act; yet it would be absurd to make this one act, in connection with the loss of respiration subsequent to it, the sole ground of an argument to prove that life had been present. It is not, however, by any means certain that the blood retains the properties which it had in the body up to the period of coagulation. This change may be delayed, either by adding a certain quantity of salt

to the liquid, or by exposing it to a temperature below 32 deg.; in the latter case it becomes frozen, and is not coagulated until it has been again thawed. Dr. Davy appears to be of opinion that in these cases the vitality is retained; and in support of this idea, adduces the fact of animals having been exposed to a freezing mixture till they became quite stiff and hard, and recovering to a transient animation on the application of warmth. The argument, however, is not very conclusive. It seems

most probable that blood, after being drawn from the veins, becomes, within a certain time, unfit for the purpose which it has there answered; the sensible change produced by coagulation convinces us that it has become so; but we have no proof, nor does it seem very probable, that the same means by which this change is deferred, are also adequate to retaining it in that state, in which it has served for the nourishment of the body, and the maintenance of life.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1829.

THE NEW MEDICINES.

VI.—*Iodine*.—Iodine was discovered in 1813, in the mother waters of soda, as it is obtained from sea-weed. A new mode of its preparation was described page 190.

It was first used in Goitre, and thought to produce more effect on that obstinate disease, than any other medicine. In scrofulous affections, it has obtained some credit, and is used with success, both externally and internally, in promoting the dissipation of hard and indolent tumors. As an alterative, it has appeared, in some cases, to hasten the cure of venereal ulcers, and some cutaneous eruptions, particularly when given in the decoction of sarsaparilla. It has been recommended in a variety of complaints, but its reputation cannot be considered established further than above stated.

There are several preparations of Iodine now in common use. The most common for internal adminis-

tration is the *Tincture*, which should be recently prepared, as it soon deposits crystals of iodine. The *Solution of the Hydriodate of Potass* is preferred by some practitioners.

Externally, the ointment and tincture are entitled, perhaps, to equal credit. The *price* of pure Iodine is \$ 1,25 the ounce, and the *Tincture*, 37½ cents the ounce.

Modes of prescribing Iodine.

1. *Tincture of Iodine.*

Take of
Alcohol, 1 ounce.
Iodine, 48 grains.
Make a tincture. Dose, 10, gradually increased to 20, drops, three times a day, in sugared water.

2. *Solution of Hydriodate of Potass.*

Take of
Hydriodate of Potass, 36 grains.
Distilled Water, 1 ounce.
Make a solution. Dose, the same as of the Tincture.

3. *Ointment of Hydriodate of Potass.*

Take of
Hydriodate of Potass, 1-2 drachm.
Hog's Lard, 1 1-2 ounce.
Make an ointment.

From half a drachm to a drachm to be rubbed on the part affected

morning and evening. When the tincture is used externally, the part should be painted with it every day, or every second day, according to the effect of each application.

LEONTODON TARAXACUM.

The Medicinal Virtues of the common Dandelion.

As a green, or boiled vegetable, the leaves and stalks of the common dandelion are generally esteemed an agreeable and healthy article of diet. Their reputation for the latter quality has probably grown out of their diuretic property; for it is a general opinion among the vulgar, that whatever possesses this virtue is conducive to health,—an opinion, perhaps, in the general, correct, but far from being so universally. In some countries, this plant is used in a variety of ways, and the roots, as well as leaves, are pressed into the service of the table. In France, for example, this root is dried, roasted, and pulverized, and mixed with coffee, in the proportion of one eighth to seven. It thus forms, among the French, a very considerable article of diet, as will be readily conceded by any one who has enjoyed the *délice*, and is aware of the vast quantities of this healthful beverage, consumed in the land of Coffee-houses and *Café noir*.

As a remedy in disease, its reputation is less extended, though founded on a basis no less entitled to confidence. BOERHAAVE recommended the Taraxacum for the removal of biliary calculi; and PEMBERTON, in his concise, but practical treatise, on the diseases of the abdominal visce-

ra, speaks of it in the following terms of commendation:—"I particularly recommend the use of the Taraxacum, from which I have seen the most decided advantage, both in incipient scirrhus of the liver, and also in several chronic derangements of the stomach."

In several cases of hepatic disease, and dyspepsia, we have used this medicine with decided advantage, after the usual, and several unusual, courses of treatment had been pursued to no purpose. In one recent instance, a lady, who had been two years under treatment by different physicians and was found in a state of great debility, emaciation, and despondency, was restored to health by the use of this single remedy; and another, which occurs to us at this moment, exhibits its good effects in a still more striking manner. The young lady referred to had been dyspeptic, troubled with a cough, pain by the side, and a variety of other ailments, for about six years. Very few articles of food could be retained by the stomach in the early part of the day. Almost everything she ate oppressed her, and during the whole of the above period, the bowels scarcely acted once without the use of medicine. After many inefficient attempts to correct this state of the system, and being convinced that the torpid action of the bowels was accompanied by a functional debility, or general torpor in the stomach and liver, we prescribed the extract of Taraxacum, in doses of from ten to twenty grains, twice a day. The necessity for laxatives became less and less frequent, the digestive pow-

ers of the stomach were gradually restored, and in about six months, we had the satisfaction of seeing our patient in better health than she had been for as many years, and able to enjoy herself and her friends.

Many cases might be related in which this remedy has been administered without any benefit, but more in which it has given us entire satisfaction. Mr. Pemberton prescribes half a drachm of the extract in $\frac{3}{4}$ iss. of peppermint water, forenoon and evening,—and gives $\frac{3}{4}$ ss. of Epsom salts in solution, every second morning. The mode of prescription must, however, be left to the circumstances of each case, and the judgment of each practitioner.

We have found a remarkable difference in the efficacy of this extract procured at different places,—a fact, not so much owing to any especial loss of virtue by the length of time which had elapsed since the article was prepared, as to its original preparation. To be efficacious, the extract should be prepared by the spontaneous evaporation of the expressed juice of the roots, taken up in August and September. Mr. Houlton, who has used the extract a great deal, and with great satisfaction, is of opinion, that a large proportion sold at the shops has very little virtue, and attributes this to the circumstance of its not being prepared in the manner above described.

GASTRO-ENTERITIS OF INFANTS.

The Physician of the Foundling Hospital, at Paris, has reported several interesting cases of this affection in newly-born infants. By am-

ple observation, he has been enabled to distinguish three grades of the disease. The *first grade* is characterized by the following symptoms,—“tension, and moderate, but diffused heat of the abdomen; intense redness of the anus and vicinity; tongue red at the sides and tip, white at the back and middle part; diarrhœa of greenish matters; constant, and almost tetanic rigidity of the muscles about the back of the neck; countenance expressive of suffering.” This grade of the disorder is usually cured in about ten days, by abstinence, fomentations to the abdomen, and the internal administration of Gum Arabic in Syrup of Marshmallows.

The following case illustrates the *second grade* of this gastric and intestinal inflammation.

“A female child, 11 days old, was brought into the infirmary of the Hospice on the 19th of March, 1827, presenting the following symptoms:—Diarrhœal discharge of yellow and watery matters; tongue red at the edges, and white on the surface; abdomen not apparently tense; heat of the skin natural; little or no crying; pulse accelerated; thorax sounding well on all points. *Rice-water with gum; abstinence.* 20th and 21st.—Continuance of diarrhœa; drink vomited; the abdomen somewhat hotter than other parts of the body. *Fomentations to the abdomen.* Pulse still more accelerated. 22d.—Death, without any convulsions.”

On dissection, the heart, large arteries, and veins, were found gorged with blood. The mucous membrane of the stomach was of one uniform redness throughout, and some degree of enlargement and inflammation existed in the mesenteric glands.

The *third degree* of this complaint

is supposed to exist in those children who die shortly after birth, without any sufficient cause of death being discoverable before the event. In many post-mortem examinations in these cases, the reporter has invariably found the vessels of the gastrointestinal canal extremely injected,—often from the œsophagus to the rectum.—A little reflection on these cases will teach us the importance of abstinence and the diluent plan of treatment in such infantile diseases, and point out the danger of subjecting organs in such a condition to the influence of powerful and irritating medicines.

On the Treatment of Colica Pictorum by Alum.—It appears that M. Kapeler has treated colica pictorum with alum for several years, with general success. From fifteen to twenty persons affected with this disease are annually received into the hospital. The method consists in giving the alum in a mucilaginous mixture, emollient clysters being at the same time administered, and the patient placed on low diet. The usual dose of alum at the commencement is a drachm, and it is increased to two or three, if the disease resists smaller quantities. The amount of the dose, however, does not seem to be in proportion to the apparent severity of the case, as some which commenced with alarming symptoms yielded to two or three drachms, while others, which appeared milder in character, required eight or ten. Dr. Perceval used to give it in doses of fifteen grains every four or six hours; but of late it has not been much used in this country.—*M. Gaz.*

New Method of studying the Cavity of the Bony Labyrinth. By Prof. MECKEL.—Place the petrous portion of the temporal bone in boiling wax, then dissolve the calcareous

phosphate of the bone, by means of diluted muriatic acid; in this manner a preparation in wax is obtained, which shows very well the disposition of the cochlea and semicircular canals, and even the distribution of the auditory nerves in the foramina of the scalæ of the cochlea. This procedure is especially recommended in relation to comparative anatomy. The anatomical collection at Berné contains a series of interesting preparations made in this manner.—*Bul. des Sciences Med.*

New Method of preserving Anatomical Preparations.—A cheap durable process, and one which clearly displays minute structure, has been published by Dr. Davy; it is simply sulphureous acid, which may be prepared in a manner equally economical and easy, by burning sulphur matches over any appropriate vessel, and agitating the water when the match ceases to burn; when the water is sufficiently impregnated with the acid gas, it should be filtered, to render it clear and transparent. The best kind of match for this purpose is that which is used in Italy, made by dipping cotton-thread in melted sulphur.—*Ed. Med. Chir. Trans.*

Prize Essay.—The prize of 50 dollars, offered by the Massachusetts Medical Society for the best dissertation on the best modes of preventing and curing habits of Intemperance, has been awarded to WILLIAM SWEETSER, M.D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic in the College at Burlington, Vt.

Several Communications are on hand, and will receive early attention.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,

Ending May 9, at noon.

Consumption, 6—convulsions, 2—croup, 1 dropsy, 1—infantile, 3—inflammation in the bowels, 1—intemperance, 1—lung fever, 1—old age, 1—teething, 3—unknown, 5. Males, 13—females 12. Stillborn 1. Total 26.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

DENTAL SURGERY.

THIS day received by Benjamin Perkins & Co., No. 135, Washington Street,—A SYSTEM OF DENTAL SURGERY. In three parts.

1. Dental Surgery as a Science.
2. Operative Dental Surgery.
3. Pharmacy connected with Dental Surgery.

By SAMUEL SHELDON FITCH, M.D., Surgeon Dentist. *Denticum curam habeto ut bene digeras et diu vivas; laxatis dentibus laxantur et chylaceo officina; hinc mille malorum occasiones.*—Baglivi XIII. March 17.

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LONDON STATIONARY, &c.

JUST received by COTTONS & BARNARD, 184 Washington Street, Crown and Double Crown Tissue Paper, large thin Bath Letter Paper; Billet Paper, Demy and Royal Bristol Board, do. do. London Board, Newman's Carmine, Music Paper.

A COPY of Bloomfield's Critical Digest of Sacred Annotation on the Gospels, 3 vols. 8vo. "The most learned Commentary in the English language." For sale by COTTONS & BARNARD, 184 Washington Street.

CASEY'S APPARATUS FOR THE CURE OF DISTORTED SPINE.

THE Proprietor of the Dormant Balance for the cure of Distorted Spine, gives notice, that he has established an agency in this city, for the convenience of those who may wish to avail themselves of this invention. Physicians having under their care the subjects of this disease, or patients themselves, may have an opportunity of inspecting the apparatus, and examining the testimonials of its efficacy, at Mr. Charles White's, corner of Winter Street. It is recommended, however, that all patients availing themselves of this invention, should do it by the advice, and under the superintendence, of their own physicians, as it is only by medical opinion that the proper subjects of the machine can be deter-

mined, or the other proper measures to be made use of in conjunction with it, can be pointed out. The Proprietor expressly disclaims the idea that a cure is to be effected, in any case, by mechanical means alone. This machine has received the approbation of many of the most eminent medical men in this city and New-York. Upon application to the agent, references will be given, and written testimonials exhibited.

All letters, post-paid, addressed to J. Lincoln, No. 27, Fayette Street, will be attended to.

Boston, Feb. 6, 1829.

NEW BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.

JUST published by COTTONS & BARNARD, 184 Washington Street.

The Waning Moon, by the author of the Rising Sun; The White Palfrey, by the author of Thomas Mansfield; The Kind and Happy Child, by the author of the White Palfrey, &c.

FRENCH WATER COLORS.

COTTONS & BARNARD, 184 Washington Street, have for sale, the following Water Colors, of an excellent quality, manufactured by P. C. Lambertye, (France,) viz: Bistre, Raw Cassel, Burnt Umber, Raw Umber, Egyptian Brown, Vandyke Brown, Brown Pink, Seppia, Violet Lake, Carmine Lake, Sanders Blue, Prussian Blue, Mineral Blue, Indigo, Yellow Ochre, Yellow Mineral, Gamboge, Yellow Orpiment, Yellow Lake, Naples Yellow, Burnt Italian Earth, Burnt Sienna, Raw Sienna, Italian Earth, Crocus Martial, Green Lake, Sanders Green, Sap Green, Mineral Green, Prussian Green, Vermillion, Saturnine Red, Indian Red, Red Ochre, Red Orpiment, Flake White.

Also—a great variety of Newman's, Ackerman's, Reeves's and Osborne's Colors, in boxes and separate cakes.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVERSATIONS.

COTTONS & BARNARD, 184 Washington Street, have just published, Sunday School Conversations on some of the interesting subjects recorded in the New Testament. By the author of the Factory Girl, The Ba'ge, James Talbot, &c.

Published weekly, by JOHN COTTON, at 184, Washington St. corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, *postpaid*.—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, three dollars and a half if not paid within three months, and four dollars if not paid within the year. The postage for this is the same as for other newspapers.